

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A plate for printing comprising:

a mask with an opening area and a non-opening area;

a plate framework with at least four sides, on which said mask is fixed; and

a paste removing protrusion extending from a surface of said plate, wherein said paste removing protrusion is arranged on said plate such that a squeegee contacts said paste removing protrusion before contacting said mask when commencing a printing step;

wherein said paste removing protrusion is so structured as to have a flat area and a slanting area; and

wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed only on said mask's non-opening area.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The plate for printing according to Claim 1, wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed on a printing start side or on a side opposite to said printing start side thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The plate for printing according to Claim 1, wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed on a printing start side and a side opposite to said printing start side, respectively.

6. (Previously presented) The plate for printing according to Claim 1, wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed on a side of said plate framework that is perpendicular to a squeegee's forward moving direction.

7. (Previously amended) A plate for printing comprising:

- a mask with an opening area and a non-opening area;
- a plate framework with at least four sides, on which said mask is fixed; and
- a paste removing protrusion extending from a surface of said plate, wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed on a side of said plate framework that is perpendicular to a squeegee's forward moving direction,

wherein said paste removing protrusion is formed in a one-piece structure with a side of said plate framework.

8. (Currently amended) [The plate for printing according to claim 7,] A plate for printing comprising:

- a mask with an opening area and a non-opening area;
- a plate framework with at least four sides, on which said mask is fixed; and
- a paste removing protrusion extending from a surface of said plate,

wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed on a side of said plate framework that is perpendicular to a squeegee's forward moving direction, wherein a spacing between said paste removing protrusion and said side of said plate framework is sealed with resin.

9. (Previously presented) The plate for printing according to Claim 1, wherein a degree of surface smoothness of said paste removing protrusion is equal to or higher than a degree of surface smoothness of said mask.

10. (Previously presented) The plate for printing according to Claim 1, wherein a coefficient of friction of said paste removing protrusion is equal to or smaller than that of said mask.

11. (Previously presented) A printing device having a squeegee couplable to the plate for printing according to Claim 1, wherein said paste removing protrusion includes a slanting area such that a length of said slanting area is made same as or longer than the squeegee's thickness.

12. (Previously amended) A printing device having a squeegee couplable to a plate for printing, said plate comprising: a mask with an opening area and a non-opening area; a plate framework with at least four sides, on which said mask is fixed; and a paste removing protrusion extending from a surface of said plate, wherein said paste removing protrusion includes a slanting area such that a slanting angle of said slanting area is made almost same as an angle complementary to the squeegee's printing angle.

13. (Currently Amended) A plate for printing comprising:

a mask with an opening area and a non-opening area;

a plate framework with four sides, on which said mask is fixed; and

a paste removing member formed of a flat area and a slanting area, both together constituting a side of said plate framework that is perpendicular to a squeegee's moving forward direction, wherein said paste removing member is arranged on said plate such that a squeegee contacts said paste removing member before contacting said mask when commencing a printing step;

wherein said paste removing protrusion is so structured as to have a flat area and a slanting area; and

wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed only on said mask's non-opening area.

14. (Previously presented) A method of printing a paste on an object to be printed with said paste by means of a plate comprising: a mask with an opening area and a non-opening area; a plate framework with at least four sides, on which said mask is fixed; and a paste removing member, said method comprising a step of removing a paste located at a squeegee's non-printing side by means of said paste removing member before printing is started.

15. (Original) The method of printing a paste according to Claim 14, wherein a squeegee is lowered in position, and is brought into contact with and slid on said paste removing member, respectively.

16. (Original) The method of printing according to Claim 14, wherein said paste is Newtonian or dilatant.

17. (Original) The method of printing according to Claim 14, wherein said object to be printed with said paste is prepared by laminating a mask film on both surfaces of a board, respectively, and also by forming a through hole therein; and said paste is filled in said through hole by said printing method.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of printing a paste according to Claim 14, wherein said printing is performed by using a plate for printing that has said paste removing member at both a printing start side and a side opposite to said printing start side, respectively, and by means of two squeegees of moving forth and moving back.

19. (Original) The method of printing according to Claim 14, wherein said paste is formed of a metallic powder, a thermosetting resin and a curing agent and exclusive of a solvent.

20. (Previously Amended) In combination, a plate and a printing device couplable to said plate, said printing device including a moving back squeegee and a moving forward squeegee, wherein said plate includes a paste removing protrusion extending from a surface of said plate disposed in such a way that at least the moving back squeegee of said printing device passes said paste removing protrusion when two squeegees of moving forth and moving back are used in printing a paste.

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21. (Previously presented) The method of printing a paste according to Claim 14, wherein said paste removing member includes a protrusion extending from a surface of said plate.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) A plate for printing comprising:

a mask with an opening area and a non-opening area;

a plate framework with at least four sides, on which said mask is fixed; and

a single paste removing protrusion disposed on a printing start side and fixed on the non-opening area of said mask;

wherein said paste removing protrusion is so structured as to have a flat area and a slanting area; and

wherein said paste removing protrusion is disposed only on said mask's non-opening area.